

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of May 19 - May 23, 2008**

- 1. Takoma Park Public Hearing on the Budget:** A public hearing on the City's proposed Fiscal Year 2009 Budget is scheduled for Tuesday, May 27 at the City Council's 7:30pm meeting. The Council is scheduled to vote on the budget on June 2 and June 9. *(Deputy City Manager)*
- 2. Staff Attends HUD Forum:** This week, DHCD staff attended a forum sponsored by HUD on a new program called "FHA Secure." The program, which will go into effect on July 14, 2008 is a temporary initiative by HUD to permit lenders to refinance delinquent conventional adjustable rate mortgages. The program applies to single family to 4 unit homes that are owner occupied. Applicants must meet FHA criteria for a new loan. If delinquent on their interest-only and/or payment option ARMs, borrowers must demonstrate that a rate reset caused the delinquency and that they were making monthly mortgage payment during the 6 months prior to the rate reset. For further information and assistance with mortgage delinquency, please call Housing Counseling Services, Inc. at 202-667-7006. *(Housing and Community Development)*
- 3. Tenant Organizing Efforts Underway (Ward 6):** The Tenant Capacity Program and the C-SAFE community organizers have been contacting tenants in the Lockney Avenue and Kennewick Avenue area to help organize a tenant association. Flyers were mailed to residences two weeks ago, informing tenants of this new initiative. The community organizers hope to schedule a meeting in early June. Tenants living in this area wanting more information should call 301-439-0971/0972 or 301-891-7222. *(Housing and Community Development and CSAFE)*
- 4. Takoma/Langley Crossroads Sector Plan Meeting (Wards 2 and 6):** Planners from Takoma Park, Montgomery County and Prince George's County held a public meeting on Wednesday to review information and gather input from community members on visions and ideas for the future of the Takoma/Langley Crossroads area. Representatives of the Maryland Transit Administration also attended the meeting to provide updated information on the Purple Line. The Takoma/Langley Crossroads Sector Plan will be a comprehensive plan and implementation strategy for the Takoma/Langley Crossroads with an emphasis on achieving transit-oriented development (TOD) around the proposed Purple Line transit station at the intersection of University Boulevard (MD 193) and New Hampshire Avenue (MD 650). For more information on this project, see www.mnccppc.org/tlc. *(Housing and Community Development)*
- 5. Poetry Workshop Opportunities for Adults:** Anne Becker, Takoma Park Poet Laureate, will offer a series of free poetry workshops for adults. The first workshop, designed for Spanish speaking adults, will be held on Tuesday, May 27 and continuing on June 3 and June 10 from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. The second workshop, also held on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., begins on June 17, continuing on June 24 and July 1. The workshops will be held in the Hydrangea Room at the Takoma Park Community Center. Participants will write their own poems, read them to the group and receive feedback to deepen and enlarge their own understanding of what they have written. The poems generated by the workshop will be gathered into an anthology and published by the Arts and Humanities Commission. To register, please call 301-891-7224. *(Housing and Community Development)*

6. The Bathroom Poet Project (City-wide): If you or someone you know would like to submit their original work to be considered for inclusion in the Arts and Humanities Commission's Bathroom Poetry Project project, please e-mail your poems to the bathroompoet@hotmail.com. If you own a business in Takoma Park and your restrooms are open to the public, please let us know if you would be interested in having one of the selected poems posted at your establishment. *(Housing and Community Development)*

7. Graphic Novel Presentation: Thirty people, including several media specialists from Montgomery County Public Schools, attended a "Graphic Novel Primer" on Tuesday evening, May 20. Dave Burbank, library assistant and graphic novel expert, and children/teen librarian Karen MacPherson hosted the program, during which participants learned a bit of the history of graphic novels, as well as what literacy skills kids can gain from reading them. We also talked about why graphic novels are so popular with kids, and briefly looked at the different types of graphic novels, including manga and comics. We hope to do another program on graphic novels in the summer that will provide a more in-depth look at the various types of graphic novels. Participants left with a six-page graphic novel reading list. More copies are available at the library for interested patrons to take home, and we also hope to have the list online soon. *(Library)*

8. Spring Trees: The Spring Bulk Tree Buy resulted in the purchase of 26 trees to be installed on private property in the City. The next opportunity for residents to purchase 1½- to 2-inch caliper trees through a bulk purchase organized by the City arborist will be this Fall. Trees will be planted next week. *(Public Works)*

9. Seniors and the BSO: On May 19, 2008, eighteen Seniors from the Takoma Park Silver Foxes Senior Club went to the Black Rock Center for the Performing Arts in Germantown to attend a free concert, "Music From Countries Around The World," by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Musicians Quintet (trumpet, French horn, tuba, trombone, percussion drums and xylophone). The Seniors enjoyed the performance, which was highlighted with popular musical compositions from a variety of countries and facts about the six instruments used on stage. *(Recreation)*

9. Sports Updates:

- The Y.E.S. Summer Basketball workouts began this week, with over fifty kids showing up to take part in the action at Piney Branch Elementary. The league is scheduled to begin Tuesday, June 3rd.

- The Girls Lacrosse Clinic, taught by Recreation staff member Melanie Tepsick, had its final session on Wednesday, May 21. The girls received certificates for their participation, and unanimously agreed they would love to take a second lacrosse clinic.

- Sports Coordinator Matt Poorman met with a member of the United States Tennis Association (USTA) today to create a partnership with them, as well as discuss the new Quick Start format the USTA is now introducing to kids across the country. *(Recreation)*

10. Poetry & Cupcakes: Takoma Park Teen Programs hosted the second Poetry and Cupcake event in which thirty youth were in attendance. Sixteen youth recited poetry from famous poets, singers, and some original work. Door prizes were awarded and everyone enjoyed the cupcakes. This has become a well attended event that seems to be growing in popularity. Plans are in process to work with the library staff to make this program even more successful. *(Recreation)*

11. **Holla at Me:** Clayton White facilitated this session in which participants were asked multiple choice questions on hygiene and etiquette. Teens discussed addressing adults by their first name, and being "on time" for an event or job. Other topics covered during this session included sexual harassment, public behavior, cultural differences on hygiene, and puberty's effects on hygiene. *(Recreation)*

12. **Officers and Police Staff in Meetings:**

- On May 19, Capt. Ed Coursey attended a briefing on leadership by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP).
- On May 21, Administrative Supervisor Denise Pullet assisted in the NCIC Audit of the Police Department. The audit team briefed Chief Ricucci and staff.
- On May 22, Chief Ricucci, D/Sgt. Richard Poole and Crime Analyst Kyleen Luy attended the PEN Crime Safety Meeting in Takoma Park.
(Police)

13. **Officers and Police Staff in Training:** On May 22 and 23, Lt. Richard Cipperly and Ms. Kyleen Luy attended training entitled "Intelligence Tool Box Training" sponsored by the Michigan State University in Gaithersburg. *(Police)*

14. **Traffic Enforcement:** Officers conducted at least 127 traffic stops, which resulted in citations, two (2) Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS) arrests and three (3) vehicle impounds.

During the week of May 15-20, 2008, the following details were completed:

May 15, 2008

- Elm Avenue & Lincoln Avenue (traffic circle) - conducted a one (1) hour detail and issued one (1) warning.

May 16, 2008

- Philadelphia Avenue & Holly Avenue (seatbelt enforcement) - conducted a half (1/2) hour detail and issued one (1) state citation and one (1) warning.

May 17, 2008

- Philadelphia Avenue & Holly Avenue (seatbelt enforcement) - conducted a half (1/2) hour detail and issued one (1) state citation and one (1) warning.
- Ethan Allen Avenue & Jackson Avenue (seatbelt enforcement) - conducted a one (1) hour detail - no citations or warnings issued.
- 7300 block of New Hampshire Avenue (speeding) - conducted a half (1/2) hour detail and issued two (2) state citations and one (1) warning.
- New Hampshire Avenue and Kirklynn Avenue (seatbelt enforcement) - conducted a half (1/2) hour detail and issued two (2) state citations and one (1) warning.
- Ethan Allen Avenue and Jackson Avenue (seatbelt enforcement) - conducted a one (1) hour detail and issued five (5) state citations.
- New Hampshire Avenue and Larch Avenue (speeding) - conducted a one (1) hour detail and issued one (1) warning.
- Ethan Allen Avenue and Jackson Avenue (seatbelt enforcement) - conducted a half (1/2) hour detail and issued one (1) warning.

May 19, 2008

- Ethan Allen Avenue and Jackson Avenue (seatbelt enforcement) - conducted a half

(1/2) hour detail and issued one (1) warning.

- Ethan Allen Avenue and Jackson Avenue (stop sign) - conducted a half (1/2) hour detail and issued two (2) state citations.

May 20, 2008

- Kirklynn Avenue and New Hampshire Avenue (seatbelt enforcement) - conducted a one (1) hour detail and issued two (2) state citations.

(Police)